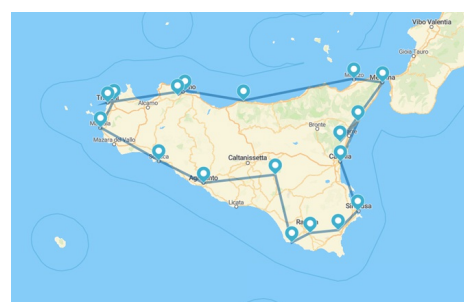




Italy (Sicily), 14 Days · Tailor-made by car

Eternal Sicily Route

The Eternal Sicily tour allows travellers to explore the whole of this fascinating "Fire Island". A route through the most interesting sites of Sicily custom-designed for intrepid travellers who know that the journey is just the beginning and want to leisurely explore one of Europe's most attractive destinations and its breathtaking World Heritage Sites. It's easy to fall in love with this eternal meeting place between East and West, between Africa and Europe, and between a majestic and ancient past and a surprising present. You'll have two full weeks to experience the island like a true Sicilian! A fun, enriching trip packed with stunning monuments, unforgettable experiences, new sounds, and flavours ranging from bitter to spicy to sweet. All washed down with the famous Marsala wine! From the Ballarò (Palermo) and Pescheria markets (Catania) to famed urban restaurants and laid-back terraces overlooking the sea. Its culinary fusion is part of the imprint left on this land by major civilisations. A historic legacy that is also present in archaeological sites such as Selinunte, Segesta and the Valle dei Templi in Agrigento. Behind the wheel, you'll discover the beauty and cultural wealth of the great baroque cities of Catania and the Val di Noto (Syracuse, Noto, Modica and Ragusa) and a host of varied and colourful landscapes ranging from beautiful beaches such as Cefalù to fertile farmland, hills crowned with Magna Graecia temples, and the salt marshes of the picture-postcard Via del Sale. And the smouldering craters of Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe! Join us on one of the most impressive routes in Italy and enjoy the road.



FAMILIES

Departure date: Departures from May 2026 till April 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - PALERMO

Flight departure from the city of origin to Palermo and rental car pick-up. Sicily entices travellers with fantastic cities such as Palermo. An important trading port since Phoenician times and located along a sweeping bay, this city is the ideal starting point to explore the fascinating island of Sicily.

The cultures of East and West intermingled here for centuries, and Palermo is today a vibrant and modern city which houses a fascinating historical heritage and an important artistic and cultural legacy. Its history is still alive in the bustling streets and the old quarter maintains a seductive oriental feel. Feel the Mediterranean soul of the city and its multitude of leisure and entertainment opportunities; travel back to the Golden Age in Quattro Canti, where you can reflect on the transience of life at the impressive Catacombs of the Capuchins, a burial place for the upper classes; attend a concert at the Teatro Massimo, the third largest in Europe; hop from bar to bar around the bustling Piazza Olivella; admire the fabulous Oratorio del Rosario (Church of San Domenico) by the famous artist Anton van Dyck; marvel at the cultural mix of Sicilian architectural treasures such as the Cathedral and the Palatine Chapel, within the 12th-century Norman Palace; learn about Sicily's important past at the Regional Archaeological Museum, one of the most outstanding in its field in Europe; discover the miracles attributed to Santa Rosalia, the patron saint of the city; stroll around the colourful and bustling Ballaro street market; and savour delicious food and Sicilian wines at the famous trattorias in the old town...

Overnight stay in Palermo.

DAY 2 · PALERMO - MONREALE - PALERMO

More time to explore the city of Palermo and its surroundings. About 30 minutes from the capital is the charming town of Monreale, with its impressive Arab-Norman cathedral overlooking Palermo from the famous Conca d'Oro (Golden Shell). The Cathedral, built by Norman king William II, is one of the wonders of the Middle Ages and among the finest examples of Norman architecture to be found in Sicily. With its 6,500 square metres of mosaics, from which a huge depiction of Christ emerges, it is an absolute gem. Take this opportunity to have an espresso or a gelato on the bustling Piazza Guglielmo, dotted with palm trees and cute bars and cafés. From the square, you can go over to Belvedere, which commands magnificent views over the Gulf of Palermo. (Note: The excursion to Monreale may take 3 to 4 hours. To avoid large crowds, it's best to visit early in the morning or the evening). If you want to enjoy some sun and sand, head to the beach of Mondello, near Palermo. Remember that in the warmer months the beach is usually very crowded. Back to Palermo, whose contrasts, splendour, decadence and the mix of architectural styles such as Norman, Florentine or Baroque will continue to amaze you. Now time to discover Palermo's nightlife and trendy restaurants!

Overnight stay in Palermo.

DAY 3 · PALERMO - CEFALU

After enjoying the capital, we'll take the motorway to the seaside resort of Cefalu, located about 69 kilometres away. Sheltered by the famous Rocca di Cefalú, a hill that commands a magnificent view of the city and the Temple of Diana, this former fishing village with a medieval air boasts beautiful beaches, excellent tourist facilities and a lively atmosphere, all of which attract national and international visitors. (Note: Cefalú tends to be very busy in summer. In the winter months, life is concentrated around the central Corso Ruggero). Immortalised in the film "Cinema Paradiso" it's one of the best-preserved enclaves that allude to Sicily's Norman past. Its old port, which is accessed through the Porta Pescara, is authenticity through and through. Depending on the time of year, in addition to laying out your towel and worshipping the sun, you can choose from many different activities, such as water sports, whale watching or a stroll through the old town. The Piazza Duomo cherishes treasures such as the magnificent twelfth-century Arab-Norman cathedral, with its Byzantine mosaics and its beautiful cloister, the monastery of Santa Caterina (now the City Hall) and the Episcopal Palace.

Round the day off by savouring the local seafood specialities while overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Overnight stay in Cefalu.

● DAY 4 · CEFALU - MILAZZO - MESSINA

We'll leave Cefalu to head for Messina. After cruising along a beautiful coast road, we can stop in the port city of Milazzo to explore the old town, where we'll see the Cathedral of San Stefano, the Spanish neighbourhood and the Archaeological Antiquarium. (Note: This stop is recommended if you wish to visit the island of Lipari, the largest of the Aeolians (World Heritage Site). A ferry crossing of approximately 1 hour is required to reach Lipari. Check the return times before planning today's leg. Between the islands there are regular ferry and hydrofoil services. Tour not included. In peak months, you can only embark with a car if you're going to spend the night in the Islands). Another possible trip before reaching Messina is to the towns of Ganzirri and Capo Peloro, just a few kilometres from the Italian mainland. And then we'll hit the town of Messina! Located on the northern tip of the island's Ionian coast, offers an unforgettable view over the strait separating Sicily from the mainland. Messina boasts a stunning historic quarter home to the cathedral and elegant nineteenth-century buildings.

Overnight stay in Messina.

● DAY 5 · MESSINA - VOLCANO ETNA - ZAFFERANA ETNEA

We'll leave Messina first thing in the morning to embark upon one of the most exciting stages of the tour: the climb to the majestic Mount Etna! A must-do excursion, weather permitting. (Note: If you need information, you can contact the Catania Tourist Office or visit the website of funiviaetna.com).

Then we'll head to Zafferana Etnea, a privileged enclave and one of the most beautiful gateways to the Parco Naturale dell'Etna. It's also an essential stop for visiting Europe's largest active volcano. The beautiful historic town of Zafferana Etnea gives travellers an insight into the frenetic volcanic history, as lava has at times reached the outskirts.

After dropping off our bags at the hotel, we'll follow the signs for Etna Sud to the Rifugio Sapienza, for some 19 kilometres.

At this point, you'll have to park the car and plan your uphill ascent, which is divided into two stretches. On the first stretch, you can trek your way up or take the "Funivia dell'Etna" cable car. The second part of the climb must be done on a 4x4 bus. (Note: The tour, which will take about 3 or 4 hours, is not included. Always follow the safety guidelines. Because of the unpredictable nature of the volcano, visiting with a guide is recommended). And make sure you're well equipped with comfortable shoes, warm clothes and sunglasses. After an unforgettable day, we'll head back to Zafferana Etnea to stroll through a natural landscape of incalculable value and try out the amazing volcanic cuisine and "Etna Bianco" and "Etna Rosso" wines produced on its rich lava slopes. The views of Etna from this spot are magnificent.

Overnight stay in Zafferana Etnea.

DAY 6 · ZAFFERANA ETNEA - TAORMINA - CATANIA

Don't leave Zafferana Etnea without a special souvenir. There's loads to choose from: ashtrays and ornaments made from lava, books and videos on past eruptions, and typical products grown on the lava-covered slopes. We'll then set off for the chicest town of Sicily: the elegant Taormina.

(Note: About 36 kilometres away, the road is usually very busy in high season, which is why we advise making the journey early in the morning).

Once there, we'll discover one of the cities that best reflects the historic soul of this fascinating island with Greek, Roman, Byzantine and medieval monuments... Sicily's first tourist resort, it's a perfectly preserved medieval jewel swathed in bougainvillea. Peppered with romantic corners and charming little squares, its beauty dazzled writers such as Truman Capote, Thomas Mann or Goethe; royals and aristocrats such as William II; and film stars like Greta Garbo, Cary Grant, Orson Welles and Rita Hayworth... Today, a steady trickle of tourists come here every day. Its monumental Teatro Greco (3rd century BC) overlooking the Etna, Bay of Naxos and the Ionian Sea is spectacular. Onward to nearby Catania, the second largest city of Sicily.

This vibrant city boasts a surprising cultural heritage.

With great transport connections and an outstanding nightlife, its elegant baroque centre was built with volcanic stone from the Etna eruption of 1669. (Note: The city centre is a World Heritage Site, together with the late Baroque towns of the Val di Noto). In the lively Piazza Duomo, you'll find some of the main sights such as the Cathedral dedicated to Saint Agatha, the Fontana dell'Elefante and La Pescheria market... If you fancy a bit of retail therapy, head over to Via Etnea, as it has a great mix of cafes, shops and boutiques. Try out the typical "pasta alla norma".

Overnight stay in Catania.

DAY 7 · CATANIA - SYRACUSE

After thoroughly exploring the volcanic city of Catania (World Heritage Site), we'll head to Syracuse, also declared a World Heritage Site and located some 66 kilometres away. Along the way, we'll pass through beautiful orchards and stunning landscapes.

Explore this fascinating city influenced by a host of civilisations and cultures. Founded between 734-733 BC, it extends along the sea near the island of Ortigia, linked to the mainland by a bridge. Considered one of the most beautiful cities of the ancient world, the likes of Plato, Archimedes and Aeschylus once walked its streets. A great deal of its allure lies in the amazing fusion of its Greco-Roman past with 18th-century architecture, giving rise to a truly unique destination. Today, monuments such as the Temple of Minerva (transformed into a Christian cathedral), the Fountain of Arethusa, the Temple of Apollo and the Roman amphitheatre are reminders of its glorious past. (Note: You can divide the visit into two parts: one around the Archaeological Park and the other on the island of Ortigia). Must-sees include the archaeological park of the Neapolis, the Catacombs of San Giovanni, the side streets of Ortigia, the Basilica of St. Lucia, and the Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Lacrime... You can also take a dip in the protected marine area of Plemmirio.

Overnight stay in Syracuse.

DAY 8 · SYRACUSE - NOTO - MODICA - RAGUSA

We'll leave Syracuse to visit the "Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto", recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for their beauty and legacy. Our first stop will be Noto, located about 35 kilometres away.

A stroll along the elegant Corso Vittorio Emanuele, dotted with palaces and Baroque churches, is a real treat. The most monumental sites of the city overlook this avenue. (Note: You can find out about the luxurious life of the ancient nobility with a visit to the ornate Palazzo di Villadorata Nicolaci).

Then back on the road to Mòdica, a drive of some 37 kilometres.

Perched on the walls of a deep gorge, the hometown of Nobel Laureate in Literature, Salvador Quasimodo, seduces travellers with its magnificent medieval buildings, treasures such as the Chiesa di San Giorgio, bustling thoroughfares such as the Corso Umberto I, and mouth-watering dishes such as "mpanatigghi" (beef and chocolate pastries)... (Note: This town is famous for producing chocolate in the same primitive form as the Aztecs did. A technique inherited from the first Spaniards who brought the chocolate from the New World to Sicily).

In the afternoon, we'll head to the beautiful city of Ragusa, located approximately 30 minutes away. The road meanders through hills dotted with rocks. There we'll discover two cities in one: Ragusa and Ragusa Superiore. Given its charm and atmosphere, it's well worth taking a stroll around and enjoying a delicious dinner in the heart of Ragusa. Maze-like and majestic, the town is dotted with mansions of the local aristocracy, typical stone houses, elegant churches and cute piazzas leading to the Piazza Duomo, a magnificent example of eighteenth-century town planning.

Overnight stay in Ragusa.

DAY 9 · RAGUSA - VILLA ROMANA DEL CASALE - PIAZZA ARMERINA

After wandering through the medieval quarter of Ragusa, we'll head for the famous Villa Romana del Casale, a fascinating third-century hunting lodge said to have belonged to Maximilian, co-emperor of Rome in the time of Diocletian, and which is located in a wooded valley just 5 kilometres southwest of the town of Piazza Armerina. The Villa has 50 rooms and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Having been buried under mud for centuries, it was rediscovered in the 1950s in a perfect state. The Roman floor mosaics are magnificent and one of the best-preserved examples in the world. (Note: To enjoy this fascinating site without huge crowds, it's best to visit the Villa early in the morning or around midday, as long as it isn't too hot. For convenience, leave your car at the Villa car park. You can also rest your feet at the café located on the site).

Once in Piazza Armerina, take a leisurely stroll through its streets and enjoy some of the most authentic sights of inland Sicily that we'll see during the trip. The Palazzo di Città, Palazzo di Trigona and the Duomo are just some of the treasures awaiting you. (Note: If you're travelling in mid-August, don't miss the famous "Palio dei Normanni" festival).

Overnight stay in Piazza Armerina.

DAY 10 · PIAZZA ARMERINA - VALLE DEI TEMPLI - AGRIGENTO

Today we'll discover the famous Valle dei Templi (Valley of Temples) in Agrigento, one of the most fascinating archaeological sites in the whole of Italy. Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the ancient Akragas was the heart of one of the most important and flourishing cities of Magna Graecia. The Acropolis, jutting out over a turquoise sea, was once considered back in the past "the most beautiful city of mortals". Today it's one of the most visited sites in Sicily. Among its must-sees are the Temple of Olympian Zeus or the sanctuary of the Chthonic Deities. (Note: The Regional Archaeological Museum and the famous Valle dei Templi can be seen in roughly 2 to 3 hours. Before setting out, check the opening hours in order to plan your visit.

If you have little time, we recommend visiting the east, where the best-preserved temples are to be found).

The Valley is divided into three sections, all near to the car park, the information office and ticket office). The site is located about 3 kilometres from present-day Agrigento. We'll end the day there, strolling through the old town and visiting unique places such as the Theatre and the birthplace of Pirandello. (Note: In summer, you can take a sunset stroll around the lit-up temples in the eastern part). A unique experience!

Overnight stay in Agrigento.

● DAY 11 · AGRIGENTO - SCIACCA - SELINUNTE - MARSALA

From Agrigento we'll set off for Sciacca, located approximately 88 kilometres away, driving through beautiful countryside and along a stunning coastline.

This town, famous for the healing power of its waters, is one of the most interesting thermal sites on the island. Take advantage of your visit to relax at the Nuovo Stabilimento Termale spa or to stroll around its pretty medieval quarter. Wandering along the Corso Vittorio Emanuele you can admire beautiful palaces and churches. Enjoy fabulous sea views from the Piazza Scandaliato! (Note: The local pottery is highly valued throughout Sicily. A week before Lent, Sciacca holds its famous Carnival).

Then we'll set out again along the south coast. After some 35 kilometres, we'll come across the important archaeological site of Selinunte (7th century BC). one of the most spectacular places we'll find on this tour.

Especially striking is the E Temple, which stands proudly in the desolate middle of nowhere. And if you want to take a dip with views, from the nearby beach of Marinella you can cool off in the sea with the ruins as a backdrop.

Today's last leg will lead us to Marsala, an interesting town known for its sweet wine and elegant baroque buildings.

A short walk through the old town will reveal the ancient splendour of this place. A recommendation: Once parked, visit one of the wine shops in town and taste the famous local wine.

Overnight stay in Marsala.

● DAY 12 · MARSALA - VIA DEL SALE - ERICE - TRAPANI

More time to explore the west of the island. On the drive between Marsala and Trapani, we recommend touring the famous "Via del Sale" and stopping of to admire the brightly-coloured salt marshes and the windmills that cross the Stagnone lagoon, the largest in Sicily. (Note: During the route, you'll find plenty of vantage points. In the summer evenings, the salt pools turn a picture-postcard pink).

Our onward journey takes us to Trapani. From there we'll turn onto the SP3 road to Erice. Despite being packed with tourists in high season, this charismatic town has retained its medieval charm and fairytale image. The views from Mount Eryx and the Balio gardens are magnificent. On a clear day, you can even see Etna and the coast of Tunisia. Next to the garden is the Castle of Venus and the Temple of Venus. This goddess is closely linked to the fascinating history of the town, which is famous for its ceramic works and excellent rugs. We'll end the day in Trapani, having zigzagged back on the SP3. (Note: The SP3 is a narrow, panoramic road with lots of curves. If you prefer not to take this fourteen-kilometre journey, you can go up to Erice from Trapani on a modern panoramic cable car. Faster than driving, the cable car is an excellent vantage point from which to view the city, the sea and the vast salt pans). Once in Trapani, enjoy a sunset "passeggiata" through its charming historic quarter.

Overnight stay in Trapani.

● DAY 13 · TRAPANI - SEGESTA - PALERMO

We'll leave the Trapani behind to discover some of the most important ruins of the Elymians (an ancient people who inhabited the western part of Sicily during the Bronze Age and classical antiquity) and one of the most perfect Doric temples in the world (5th century BC). Crowning a secluded spot, there are still many legends surrounding its origin. The temple, well preserved and sheltered among green hills and rugged mountains, oozes a magical atmosphere. (Info: If you visit the Segesta archaeological site in summer, it's best to avoid the hottest hours of the day). Back in Palermo, we'll round off the day sightseeing, shopping or simply enjoying a delicious ice cream...

Overnight stay in Palermo.

● DAY 14 · PALERMO - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes _____

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Palermo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Palermo.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Cefalù.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Cefalù.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Messina.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Zafferana Etnea Catania.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Catania.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Catania.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Syracuse.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Syracuse.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Ragusa.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Ragusa.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Piazza Armerina.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Piazza Armerina.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Agrigento.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Agrigento.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Marsala.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Marsala.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Trapani.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Trapani.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Sicily direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Palermo



Monreale



Cefalù



Milazzo



Messina



Zafferana Etnea Catania



Taormina



Catania



Syracuse





Noto



Piazza Armerina



Sciacca



Erice



Modica



Agrigento



Marsala



Trapani



Ragusa



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.

- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.